



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUGITIVE ARRESTED, INDICTED ON ADDITIONAL DRUGS, FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a federal fugitive, who was recently arrested after a high-speed pursuit, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on additional charges related to drugs and firearms violations.

Richard B. Coker, 34, currently in federal custody, was charged in a three-count superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Graves explained that today's indictment includes additional charges to the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 9, 2002. The earlier indictment charges **Coker** with a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine between January 1, 1996 and March 5, 2002.

Although a federal arrest warrant was issued for **Coker** on May 9, 2002, Graves said, he remained a fugitive until his arrest on November 6, 2002. After a high-speed chase by the U.S. Marshals Service, **Coker** was taken into custody at the Home Depot on Lee's Summit Road.

Count One of the superseding indictment alleges that **Coker** conspired with others to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between January 1, 1996 and November 6, 2002.

Count Two of the superseding indictment alleges that **Coker** was in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that the chemical would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on November 6, 2002.

Count Three of the superseding indictment alleges that **Coker** was in possession of a

Makarov 9mm semi-automatic pistol on November 6, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, as a result of **Coker's** previous criminal felony convictions.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Metro Meth Drug Task Force, the United States Marshal Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the police departments of Independence, Sugar Creek, Blue Springs and Kansas City, Mo.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow